AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.   (canceled).

2.   (currently amended): ~~A data processing apparatus according to claim 1,~~ A system according to claim 10, said data processing apparatus further comprising:

periodically data reading means for periodically reading said examinational information data from said server.

3.   (currently amended): ~~A data processing apparatus according to claim 1,~~ A system according to claim 10, said data processing apparatus further comprising:

list displaying means for displaying, on a display unit, a list of examinational information that is produced by merging examinational information data newly read from said server and examinational information data that have already been stored in said local database.

4.   (canceled).

5.   (canceled).

6.   (currently amended): ~~A system according to claim 5, further comprising:~~

A system for processing examinational information of medical images, said system having a server for storing and managing examinational information data for identifying an image obtained by a medical imaging apparatus, and a data processing apparatus for merging data of the image obtained by said medical imaging apparatus and the examinational information data from said server into data in a predetermined format, said server and said data processing

apparatus being connected to each other by a communication link, said data processing apparatus comprising:

a local database for storing and managing said examinational information data; and

comparing means for comparing examinational information data newly read from said server and examinational information data that have already been stored in said local database with each other, and storing the newly read examinational information data into said local database only when the newly read examinational information data have not been stored;

a terminal connected to said communication link for receiving and outputting examinational information data that have been stored in said server when the medical imaging apparatus is used; and

a communication monitoring device connected to said communication link for logging communication data transmitted between said terminal and said server,

wherein said communication monitoring device transmits the examinational information data to said data processing apparatus when said communication monitoring device detects reception by said terminal of said examinational information data from said server.

7.   (currently amended): A system according to claim 5, further comprising:

A system for processing examinational information of medical images, said system having a server for storing and managing examinational information data for identifying an image obtained by a medical imaging apparatus, and a data processing apparatus for merging data of the image obtained by said medical imaging apparatus and the examinational information data from said server into data in a predetermined format, said server and said data processing apparatus being connected to each other by a communication link, said data processing apparatus comprising:

a local database for storing and managing said examinational information data; and

comparing means for comparing examinational information data newly read from said

server and examinational information data that have already been stored in said local database

with each other, and storing the newly read examinational information data into said local

database only when the newly read examinational information data have not been stored;:

a terminal connected to said communication link for receiving and outputting

examinational information data that have been stored in said server when the medical imaging

apparatus is used; and

a communication monitoring device connected to said communication link for

monitoring data communications between said terminal and said server,

wherein said communication monitoring device sends a command to said server to copy

predetermined data included in the examinational information data stored in said server to said

local database when data communications between said terminal and said server are detected.

8.   (currently amended): The system of claim [[5]] 6, wherein the medical imaging

apparatus sends an end imaging signal to the server, and when the server receives the end

imaging signal, the server automatically deletes examinational information data for a

corresponding image.

9.   (previously presented): The system of claim 8, wherein said data processing

apparatus further comprises a periodic reading means, which reads automatically examinational

information data from the server depending on a frequency of forming images performed by the

medical imaging apparatus.

10.   (previously presented): A system for processing examinational information of

medical images, said system comprising:

a server for storing and managing examinational information data for identifying an image obtained by a medical imaging apparatus,

a data processing apparatus for merging data of the image obtained by said medical imaging apparatus and the examinational information data from said server into data in a predetermined format, said server and said data processing apparatus being connected to each other by a communication link,

said data processing apparatus comprising:

a local database for storing and managing said examinational information data; and

comparing means for comparing examinational information data newly read from said server and examinational information data that have already been stored in said local database with each other, and storing the newly read examinational information data into said local database only when the newly read examinational information data have not been stored.

11.   (previously presented): The system of claim 6, wherein the communication monitoring device is connected to the server via the communication link.

12.   (previously presented): The system of claim 6, wherein a log of data transmitted between the server and the terminal becomes transmitted to the comparing means of the data processing apparatus, and wherein the data processing apparatus stores the examinational information data into said local database only when the newly read examinational information data from said log have not been previously stored.

13.   (previously presented): The system of claim 12 wherein the log of data includes examinational information comprising at least one of a patient's acceptance number, patient name; patient ID, examination department, and imaging technician.

14.   (canceled).

15.   (new): The system of claim 10 wherein the predetermined format is the DICOM standard.

16.   (new): The system of claim 15, wherein the medical imaging apparatus outputs data in a non-DICOM format.

17.   (new): The system of claim 16, wherein the predetermined format is stored in the local database.

18.   (new): The system of claim 8, wherein deleting the examination information data free memory space in the server.

19.   (new): The system of claim 6, wherein the communication monitoring device monitors image acquisition activity between the terminal and server.